GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2330
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
BT. COTTON
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered with Bt. Cotton production technology and conventional cotton seed, State-wise;

(b) whether the introduction of Bt.Cotton has led to an increase in yield per hectare;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the findings of the Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) study regarding the socio-economic impact of Bt. Cotton production on the lives of cotton grower in the country;

(e) whether the Government proposes to encourage farmers to take up production of quality Bt. Cotton in the country in order to get higher profits;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to bridge the gap between the cost of production of Bt.Cotton and the support price given by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(g): Bt. cotton is the only genetically modified crop released for commercial cultivation in India by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of Ministry of Environment & Forest. Bt. Cotton seed of 167 hybrids is produced and marketed by 25 private seed companies at prices ranging from Rs.750/- to Rs.900/- per packet of 450 gms. The prices have been fixed by the Seed Industry in consultation with States. Cultivation of Bt. Cotton has led to significant increase in cotton production in the country. Area under Bt. Cotton has increased from 29,073 hectare in 2002 to 3.47 million hectare in 2006. Production of cotton has increased from 86.24 lakh bales of 170 kg. each in 2002 to 226.96 lakh bales in 2006.

Government is not implementing any programme to promote cultivation of Bt. Cotton. Minimum Support Price is fixed by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices. Details of area under conventional cotton and Bt. cotton in Bt. cultivating States during 2006 are given in the Annexure.